

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**ALBERT SERRANO, JR.,**

**Petitioner,**

**v.**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
SUPERIOR COURTS,**

**Respondent.**

**Case No. 24-cv-08776-ESK**

**OPINION**

**KIEL, U.S.D.J.**

Petitioner Albert Serrano, Jr., filed this petition for writ of habeas corpus (Petition) (ECF No. 1.) He also seeks to proceed *in forma pauperis* (Application). (ECF No. 1–1.) The filing fee for a petition for writ of habeas corpus is \$5.00. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 54.3(a), the filing fee is required to be paid at the time the petition is presented for filing. If a prisoner does not pay the filing fee and instead seeks to proceed *in forma pauperis*, that petitioner must submit (a) an affidavit setting forth information which establishes that the petitioner is unable to pay the fees and costs of the proceedings, and (b) a certification signed by an authorized officer of the institution certifying (1) the amount presently on deposit in the prisoner’s prison account and, (2) the greatest amount on deposit in the prisoner’s institutional account during the six-month period prior to the date of the certification. L.Civ.R. 81.2(b). If the institutional account of the petitioner exceeds \$200, the petitioner shall not be considered eligible to proceed *in forma pauperis*. L.Civ.R. 81.2(c).

Petitioner’s Application is incomplete because it has not been certified by a prison official. (ECF No. 1–1 p. 3.) The Court will direct the Clerk to send petitioner a new *in forma pauperis* application to complete and return. The

Clerk will be ordered to administratively terminate the Petition without prejudice.<sup>1</sup>

An appropriate Order accompanies this Opinion.

/s/ Edward S. Kiel

**EDWARD S. KIEL**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

Dated: September 3, 2024

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<sup>1</sup> Such an administrative termination is not a “dismissal” for purposes of the statute of limitations, and if the case is re-opened pursuant to the terms of the accompanying Order, it is not subject to the statute of limitations time bar if it was originally submitted timely. *See Houston v. Lack*, 487 U.S. 266 (1988) (prisoner mailbox rule); *Papotto v. Hartford Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 731 F.3d 265, 275-76 (3d Cir. 2013) (collecting cases and explaining that a District Court retains jurisdiction over, and can re-open, administratively closed cases).